



**Director of
Central
Intelligence**

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National Intelligence Daily

***Thursday
8 April 1982***

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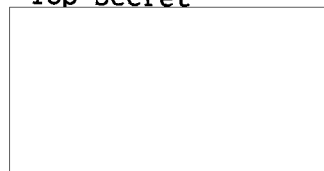
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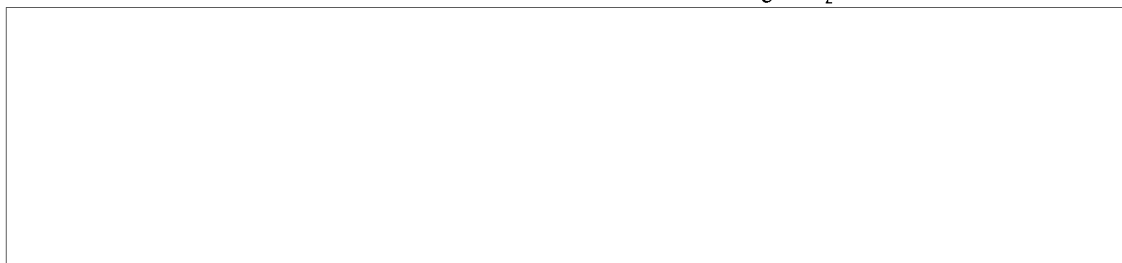
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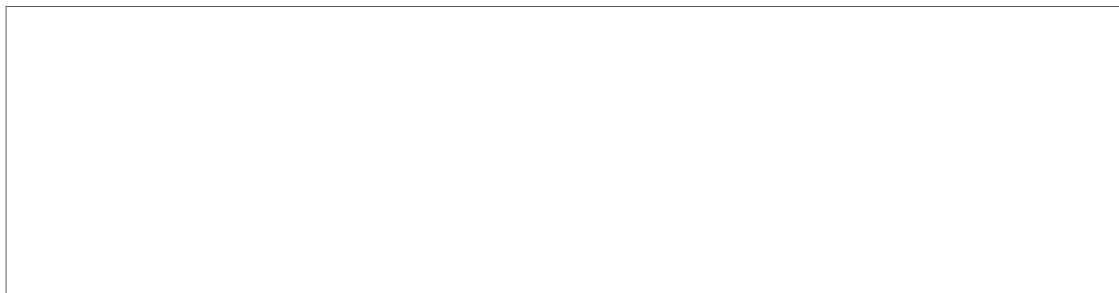
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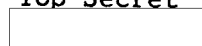
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③ ISRAEL-LEBANON: Israeli Military Preparations

The Israelis have sent additional artillery and support units to northern Israel and the Golan Heights following recent terrorist incidents in the occupied West Bank and Gaza and the killing in Paris last weekend of an Israeli diplomat.

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[redacted] a
battalion of self-propelled guns from southern Israel moved to the Golan on Monday and that another artillery battery had moved into the northeasternmost part of the Galilee on Sunday. Truck convoys carrying artillery ammunition, engineering equipment, and antiaircraft guns also were seen moving north. [redacted]
[redacted]

1/3 Israeli forces normally in the north are still reinforced by elements of two armored divisions and units of two elite infantry brigades sent there during the crisis in Lebanon last December. The Israelis have approximately 19,000 troops in the northern border area and on the Golan. [redacted]

Defense Minister Sharon warned a senior US official yesterday that Israel will not remain inactive if the terrorist attacks continue. He claimed that the Israeli public would support Israeli retaliation. Labor Party leader Peres similarly warned that the accumulating terrorist incidents, which he blamed on the PLO, would force Israel to react. [redacted]
[redacted]

Comment: Public opinion appears to be solidly behind the government on the need for retaliation if the attacks continue, and there are no signs of dissent in Prime Minister Begin's coalition. Although some newspapers claim that Labor leaders told Begin on Tuesday that he should move cautiously, Labor clearly agrees with Begin that some form of retaliation will be required if further incidents occur. [redacted]

Israeli retaliation against the PLO, however, may not extend to an invasion of southern Lebanon. The Israelis may resort to commando raids and airstrikes against PLO targets in Lebanon or attempt to assassinate PLO leaders. [redacted]

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WESTERN EUROPE - NICARAGUA: Socialists Regroup

3 *The Sandinistas probably are discounting private warnings by some foreign socialist leaders and are giving greater credence to the Socialist International's continuing public support.*

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3 [redacted] Socialist International President Brandt apparently has persuaded Latin American parties that the Sandinistas should not be barred from observing the International's sessions on Central America. Although it is still uncertain whether those parties would agree to receive the Sandinistas in their countries, this controversial point has been papered over. [redacted]

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1/3 Most West European socialists are less concerned about Nicaragua's course than about US policy, including alleged US efforts to bring down the Sandinistas and US military support for a possible rightist regime in El Salvador. The International's public unity on Central America demonstrates the high priority given by its members to maintaining the organization's influence and to persuading the US to change its position. [redacted]

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1/3 Member parties evidently were dismayed at the cancellation of an earlier meeting due to disagreement over Sandinista attendance. Allegations of US pressure also may have induced some parties to soften their positions toward the Sandinistas to avoid being portrayed as tools of the US. [redacted]

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SAUDI ARABIA - US: Opposition to Oil Import Tax

Minister of Finance Aba al-Khayl has pointedly expressed opposition to proposals for a US tariff on oil imports, calling it insensitive in view of longstanding Saudi efforts to moderate oil price increases. Riyadh, however, would have no problem with increased taxes on gasoline at the retail level. [REDACTED]

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Comment: The Saudis clearly are concerned about US media reports that an oil import tax is receiving serious attention in Washington, and the Minister's views almost certainly reflect official government policy. Over the past several years the Saudis have attacked the tariff idea whenever it has been raised on grounds that such measures take away income rightfully belonging to the oil exporters. They also realize that an import tax would further weaken demand for OPEC oil and put additional pressure on members to cut prices. [REDACTED]

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